

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC SAINT VINCENT ARCHABBEY (MONASTERY) GRISTMILL

AND/OR COMMON

The Gristmill

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Saint Vincent Archabbey and College

—NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Latrobe

— VICINITY OF

21st

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Pennsylvania

42

Westmoreland

129

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

—DISTRICT

—PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

—MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

—UNOCCUPIED

—COMMERCIAL

—PARK

—STRUCTURE

—BOTH

—WORK IN PROGRESS

—EDUCATIONAL

—PRIVATE RESIDENCE

—SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

—ENTERTAINMENT

—RELIGIOUS

—OBJECT

—IN PROCESS

—YES: RESTRICTED

—GOVERNMENT

—SCIENTIFIC

—BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

—TRANSPORTATION

—NO

—MILITARY

—OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Benedictine Society of Westmoreland County

STREET & NUMBER

Saint Vincent Archabbey and College

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Latrobe

— VICINITY OF

Pennsylvania

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Archives of the Benedictine Society of Westmoreland County

STREET & NUMBER

Saint Vincent Archabbey

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Latrobe

Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

The Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

12/3/76

—FEDERAL STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

William Penn Memorial Museum, P. O. Box 1026

CITY, TOWN

Harrisburg

STATE
Pennsylvania

7-DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT DETERIORATED
 GOOD RUINS
 FAIR UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Saint Vincent Archabbey Gristmill was built in 1854. In a letter to the Abbot of Kremsmunster Germany dated January 24, 1854, the Abbot of Saint Vincent Abbey, Abbot Boniface, describes the new gristmill as follows: At the foot of the hill stands an entirely new steam mill which is 45' by 40' and four stories high. Since 1854, two additions have been added to the original structure, a 35' by 40' addition in 1855 and a 45' by 45' addition in 1883. The building is rectangular with a gabled roof having three stories facing the south or main entrance and four stories with the basement facing the north. (V)

The structure frame is made of hand hewn chestnut and was originally covered with chestnut clapboard siding. Today the outside walls are covered with a beige insul-brick siding which is in deteriorated condition. The foundation is of local sandstone.

The interior and main structure are in good condition due to continued use (123 years) and upkeep. Never a water powered mill, it was originally run by steam but in 1952 electric motors were installed. All three three-ton French flint mill stones are still in use as are the complex system of bucket elevators, belt conveyors and sifting machines.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Constructed 1854

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Benedictine Monks of the
Saint Vincent Monastery

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The scope of significance of the gristmill touches several areas; agriculture, architecture, engineering and religion.

The gristmill as an agricultural "tool" is today as it was 123 years ago, having been in continuous operation for this span of time. It was the core of the agricultural community not only an economic center but a center of social life as well.

Architecturally, the style of the gristmill certainly was influenced by the fact that the monks who built it were Bavarians and would have used the styles that were familiar to them. The ability of the building to endure time alone is a tribute to the industry of that generation. The trend in this section of Pennsylvania at this period of time (1850's) was the Greek Revival style but these secular styles had little influence on the master craftsmen who built the gristmill. The greater tradition of 1,500 years of monastic architecture shaped the lines by which these men built. The simplicity of line and honesty of material are the chief elements by which these monks planned and constructed their buildings.

Because the gristmill is still in operation using most of the original methods and equipment, it offers the student an excellent opportunity to see an 19th century gristmill in operation. The mill is interesting for its layout and milling system which includes a complex system of elevators, belt drives, gear drives, alarm systems for low grain levels, the wooden hoist for raising the stone and a host of other intricate devices.

Saint Vincent Monastery is first and foremost a religious community of Benedictine monks. Founded in 1846, Saint Vincent was the first Benedictine Monastery in America. They came to praise God and to serve their fellow men. The Monastery was not only the spiritual center of the larger secular community that sprang up around the Monastery, but also the community that was looked up to to lead others in the advancement of education, science, agriculture, animal husbandry and all the other aspects of life.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Partial listing of the Wimmer Correspondence contained in the following Archives) Archives of: Saint Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe, Pa.; Ludwig-Missionverein, Munich, Germany; Royal Archives, Munich, Germany; Abbey of St. Paul's-Outside-the-Walls, Rome, Italy; Metten Abbey, Metten, West Germany; Scheyern Abbey, Scheyern, West Germany. KDKA Television New Films, American Benedictine Review, Congressional Record, Pittsburgh Sun-Telegraph, Pittsburgh Renaissance Magazine, Greensburg Tribute Review, Latrobe Bulletin.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 1613,517,50 446,15,40
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Brother Derris Jeffcoat O.S.B./Susan M. Zacher, Curator

ORGANIZATION Benedictine Society of Westmoreland Co/ Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Comm. DATE 11/14/76
1/25/77

STREET & NUMBER Saint Vincent Archabbey/P. O. Box 1026 TELEPHONE 717-787-4363

CITY OR TOWN Latrobe/Harrisburg STATE Pennsylvania

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

William J. Wewer, Executive Director
 TITLE Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	17	635750	4461540	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

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TELEPHONE
717-787-4363

CITY OR TOWN

Latrobe/Harrisburg

STATE
Pennsylvania

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THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

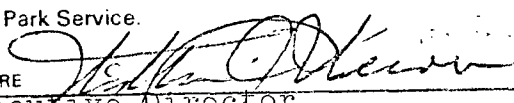
NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE William J. Wewer, Executive Director
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

DATE 7/29/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

